

HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMBARDMENT WING (Hv)
APO 520 US Army

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 117)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 117)

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (VENEZIA) 1:500,000

Target Chart No. 4-120B-NA (PORTO MARGHERA & MESTRE)

Photographs No. 4089 15SG/511/3 PG/14 June 44

No. 4013 15SG/459/3 PG/22 May 44

DB Report No. 112, 15 June 1944 (W. photograph)

No. 109, 12 June 1944 (W. photograph)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK.

(1) E Section Map No. 1816, 27 June 1944, pinpoints 2 x 4 batteries of Heavy Guns at PORTO MARGHERA, and flak defense in adjacent areas, consisting of 2 x 4 and 1 x 6 batteries at MESTRE, plus 1 x 3 and 1 x 4 at VENICE. When attacked 13 June 1944 MIH flak was encountered. Moderate flak is to be expected, and since enemy has improved flak defenses of Northern ITALY it is likely that this volume of flak will also be accurate.

(2) MESTRE is defended by 1 x 6 and 4 x 4 batteries of Heavy Guns, 1 x 3 and 1 x 4 batteries of Heavy Guns at VENICE are adjacent. When attacked 10 June 1944 MAH flak was encountered. E Section Map No. 1816, 27 June 1944, pinpoint positions.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

(1) Enemy has materially strengthened his e/a defense of all Northern ITALY, with concentration in the FERRARA-BOLOGNA area (100 e/a on 23 June 1944) and the UDINE area (74 e/a 16 June 1944). Part of those based in the FERRARA-BOLOGNA area may intercept formation on route to and on return from targets; it is less probable that those based in the UDINE area will intercept bombers attacking PORTO MARGHERA, inasmuch as they will be required to defend targets attacked by 5th, 47th, and 49th Wings. Further, the e/aa based in the FERRARA-BOLOGNA area may be engaged at any time by a/c of Tactical Air Force. Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force estimates that enemy is capable of putting up 110 SEF in North ITALY, plus 40-50 Me 109's in FERRARA - BOLOGNA - REGGIO EMILIA area, unless these are engaged by Tactical Air Force.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET. The oil processing and storage facilities at PORTO MARGHERA have not been eliminated, and

since they constitute one of the three remaining depots in North ITALY they have high target value. There are 5 large storage depots, one containing 44 tanks of various sizes. The A.C.I.P. Oil Refinery is a modern plant, reported to have cracking equipment, but no facilities for lubricating oil. 488 storage tanks adjoin the works. The S.I.A.P. oil storage has 50 tanks, the S.A. Azienda Petroli: Italo Romano has 9 tanks, while an unidentified storage plant has 20 tanks.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of this attack is as follows:

- (1) 5th Wing: 2 Groups attack VERONA W/Y,
2 Groups attack DERG NO Steelworks,
2 Groups with AZON force attack AVISIO viaduct.
- (2) 47th Wing:
2 Groups attack CASARS. Bridge,
2 Groups attack LATISANA Bridge.
- (3) 49th Wing: 3 Groups attack AVIINO oil and gasoline storage.
- (4) 304th Wing: 4 Groups attack TIESTE North oil refinery.

b. 306th Fighter Wing will provide penetration, target and withdrawal cover.

By order of Colonel ACNHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
Major, AC,
A-2.

DISTRIBUTION:

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